

Harry and Harriet Bott House
100 Coleridge Avenue
Llyswn Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5872

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
120-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HARRY AND HARRIET BOTT HOUSE

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Location: 100 Coleridge Avenue

Date of Erection: 1902

Description: This two-story, Colonial Revival house is a wood-frame structure with weatherboard siding and a hipped roof accented by a hipped dormer at the front. The house is actually a basic foursquare form overlaid with Neoclassical symmetry and embellishments, including a wide frieze at the cornice with carved wreaths and an Adamesque panel centered on the south facade. A formal entry with leaded fanlight and sidelights is further elaborated by a handsome Greek Revival porch. Its grouped columns, wide entablature, and crowning balustrade make a modest but authoritative visual statement of good taste and comfortable means. The capitals of the wood columns are cast iron. Folding shutters on the first-floor windows are original. Although the emphasized central entry appears to imply a corresponding central hall, it actually opens into a room that spans the width of the house. The stairway rises from a landing on the south end of the house, between the living room and the kitchen and is accessible from both rooms.

History: Harriet Bott purchased the large lot at the corner of Coleridge and Ward avenues from the Altoona Suburban Home Company for \$500, and was deeded title to the property in 1903. She and her husband, Harry, an agent of the National Cash Register Company, built this house in 1902. The Botts sold their home in 1905 for \$6,000, a substantial sum of money at that time, to Percy N. Rich, manager of the Cambria Coal Mining Company. The 1920 Sanborn map also shows a one-and-a-half-story, wood-frame garage with attached chicken coops and a separate shed on the lot. Percy and Harriet Rich occupied the house for the rest of their lives. She died in 1934, and upon his death five years later their daughter, Margaret, acquired the property. She was the wife of Warren Lee, vice president of W. S. Lee & Sons, dealers in butter and eggs; her estate sold the house to the current owners in 1986.

Sources: Maps: 1909, 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 145/142, 162/328, 361/619, 361/620, 447/597, 1134/374.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.